PEOPLES TEMPLE
OF THE
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
Jim Jones,
Pastor

16 MAY 1978

569

"For I was an hungered
and ye gave me meat:
I was thirsty
and ye gave me drink;
I was a stranger
and ye took me in;
Naked, and ye clothed me;
I was sick and ye visited me;
I was in prison,
and ye came unto me.

"Then shall the righteous
Answer him, saying,
When saw we thee an hungered
And fed thee?
Or thirsty,
And gave thee drink?
When saw we thee a stranger
And took thee in?
Or naked, and clothed thee
Or when saw we thee sick?
Or in prison,
And came unto thee?

"Verily I say unto you,
Inasmuch as ye have done it
Unto one of the least of these...
...Ye have done it unto me"

Matthew 25: 35-40

May 9, 1978

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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Hon. Cyrus Vance
Secretary of State
Main State Building
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Secretary Vance:

This letter will bring to your attention a new and alarming development in the events surrounding the 1500 or more Americans who are at the Peoples Temple Agricultural Mission in Guyana, South America.

A group of people here in the U.S. who have relatives overseas at the Agricultural Mission are being stirred up largely by the continued efforts of Mr. Timothy O. Stoen. Mr. Stoen, as you are aware, is pursuing a custody suit against Rev. Jim Jones for Rev. Jones' six year old son, John Victor.

The tactics being used by Mr. Stoen to attempt to disrupt and undermine the efforts of Rev. Jones and the 1500 people in Guyana are dangerous and illegal. We bring these to your attention for several reasons. First, they threaten the very lives of the Americans overseas, including men, women and children. Second, he is formulating plans to advance mercenary force, defying all U.S., Guyanese, and International laws. Finally, we feel it is our responsibility to inform you of these illegal activities and that it is your responsibility in turn to notify Mr. Stoen as to the rules and regulations which prohibit kidnapping, threatening violence, and hiring mercenaries, and that he is acting way out of line.

Mr. Stoen has been calling all over the state and nation to relatives of Temple members who are overseas making slanderous comments about Rev. Jones and telling vicious lies to alarm them about their relatives' well-being. There are a growing number of people calling the Temple and their loved ones here in the states to

report these phone calls. Many have written affidavits and are submitting them to law enforcement agencies for protection from further harassment.

In one recent telephone patch conversation via radio, an elementary school principal overseas in Guyana asked her relatives here what Mr.Stoen had told them. They replied he bragged about having mercenaries to go to Jonestown and take relatives by force; that he plans to hire helicopters to drop bombs on the project; and that he has guns and weapons to work with. These stories may sound like wild exaggerations, but we have heard the same stories repeatedly and from very credible and reliable sources. When the school principal incredulously asked her relatives to repeat what they had heard Mr. Stoen say about having guns, they responded: "Well, it's his business. They (the Temple congregation) ought to all be killed anyway."

Mr. Stoen is, in fact, working with an agency called the Eureka Resource Associates, an exploration company specializing in aerial photography and geographic research. This can be substantiated. It also is a fact that he is holding regular meetings in Los Angeles and San Francisco to organize people and plan tactics of harassment.

Another phone call incident was reported to the Temple just yesterday. The elderly mother and mother-in-law of a member of our church here in the States (who has a husband and two children overseas at the project) were both contacted by Mr. Stoen. They were told outlandish lies such as people there are "shot on the spot." They were also told by Mr. Stoen that he is working with "the Prime Minister of Guyana to do what has to be done," insinuating that the Temple is not on good terms with the government there. The fact is, Mr. Stoen has no credibility at all in Guyana and the Deputy Prime Minister refused, after enduring much harassment, to even see him at all. The elderly mothers of the Temple members who reported receiving the calls were so alarmed and upset by a series of defamatory statements that they had to have telephone patch conversations with their loved ones in Guyana to be reassured that they are well and happy and what Mr. Stoen had told them was lies.

The Guyanese Ambassador to the U.S. said that people in the appropriate positions have been notified of Mr. Stoen's threats. The plans for mercenaries will not be tolerated. He has cautioned Rev. Jones and the Temple members in Guyana to be very careful. This kind of image of the United States, which Mr. Stoen is projecting, is by no means favorable to the Department of State; we understand he is parading as though he has your support. We would feel much better if we had some verification that you and your staff are assuming your responsibility in this matter. Certainly the activities of Mr. Stoen should be looked into and he should be duly informed this kind of provocative and illegal behavior will not be tolerated.

Sincerely,

Jean F. Brown

Jean F. Brown, Peoples Temple

cc: President Carter

COMMENTS ABOUT JONESTOWN, GUYANA FROM ON-SITE VISITS

1. Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, Guyana: "Impressive."

2. Charge D'Affaires, new assistant to U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young: "I am impressed."

3. Officer in Charge of Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago, U.S. Department of State: "Impressive work."

4. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana: "Peace and love in action."

5. Minister of Education, Guyana: "Very impressive."

6. Regional Development Officer, North West Region, Guyana: "Very progressive."

7. Chief Official in the Ministry of Education, Guyana: "Very much impressed with everything, thanks."

8. Head Dental Instructor, University of Guyana: "Excellent community project."

9. British High Commissioner in Guyana: "A most impressive start and I wish you all success."

10. Chancellor of the University of Guyana: "Impressive."

11. Minister of Agriculture, Guyana: "Very interesting, keep it up."

12. Minister of Works and Transportation, Guyana: "Very impressed with progress since I visited one year ago."

13. Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Works and Transportation: "A wonderful experience, a model village community to be emulated."

14. Assistant Director General of National Service of Guyana: "Excellent."

15. United States Consulate in Guyana: "A very pleasant day in a very pleasant atmosphere."

16. A writer from one of the largest news agencies in the world: "It's very, very impressive. Thank you for this opportunity and best wishes."

17. Regional Minister, North West Region, Guyana: "Keep up the good work."

18. Thirty-five teachers from the McKenzie District: "Fantastic, beyond one's imagination, miraculous, beautiful, a true example of socialist living." "Amazing, impressive."

19. Head and one of the original founders of the Marco Medical Net: "Incredible, fantastic."